

INFO	LOG-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-00	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4113

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY

NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 004223

NSC FOR CBARTON

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

STATE PASS USAID FOR DCHA/OTI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/09/2013

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, KDEM, OAS, VE

SUBJECT: DRAWING LINES FOR THE SIGNATURE VERIFICATION BATTLE

REF: CARACAS 4161

Classified By: Abelardo A. Arias, Political Counselor, for  
Reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

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Summary  
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1. (C) Repeating charges of "mega-fraud," President Hugo Chavez said December 6 and 7 that he would not accept a decision by the National Electoral Council (CNE) to schedule a recall based on signatures that he considers invalid. Chavez's Fifth Republic Movement (MVR) said December 8 it

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plans to file a legal motion requesting the identity numbers of all signers and a copy of each signature form. The opposition is working continuously to prepare the signatures for presentation to the CNE.

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Chavez Gives Ultimatum To CNE  
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2. (U) President Chavez renewed allegations of "mega-fraud" on December 6 and 7, challenging the opposition's claim that it collected more than 3.6 million signatures during its signature drive Nov. 28 - Dec. 1 (reftel). Fraud was the central theme of the nationally-broadcast speech (cadena) December 6, when Chavez addressed a rally to celebrate the fifth anniversary of his first election as president. The President repeated the allegations on December 7 during his weekly "Alo, Presidente!" show. He cited numerous examples of supposed fraud, giving names and identity numbers of alleged perpetrators (see para 6). Chavez said he suspected that the majority of the signatures collected by the opposition were false and ought to be rejected during the National Electoral Council (CNE) verification process. If "the referee" does not reject the signatures, he said, "there would be no game." He added that he would have to be convinced of every signature and thumbprint before he would accept the CNE's results.

3. (U) On December 8, the pro-Chavez Fifth Republic Movement (MVR) deputies Nicolas Maduro and Iris Varela announced their party planned to seek a court order demanding the opposition supply them with copies of each signature form. Maduro added that the MVR plans to establish an anti-fraud commission that will train party members to detect irregularities in electoral processes.

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Reactions Focus On CNE's Authority  
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4. (U) The Democratic Coordinating Committee (DCC) released a statement on December 8 rejecting Chavez's comments, claiming that the President does not have the power to stop the

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referendum process. CNE directors Ezequiel Zamora (associated with the opposition) and Jorge Rodriguez (linked to the Chavistas) said publicly that both sides must recognize the decision by the CNE once it has finished the verification process. Zamora advised both sides to be sensible and let the verification process unfold in peace.

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